

FW: Read out: PM call with Mayor Watson - 2022-02-08

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Key part here

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PM: That makes sense, and I will pass along and see how we can make the rules

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Good afternoon everybody, sending over the readout from PM's call with Mayor Watson.

Key Takeaway:

- * Mayor Watson reiterated the request for 1800 additional officers on the ground. He further clarified that out of the 1800, 600 are rcmp, 600 are opp and the rest are from municipalities.
- * Watson indicated dissatisfaction with Ontario for not coming to the table, that Doug Ford is purposely staying away because of politics, and accused the solicitor general Sylvia Jones of being disingenuous with the number of provincial officers the province provided. Jones said 1500, but Watson is saying that's absolutely false.
- * Watson will go public to say that the PM has assured him of support from the federal government. He is also happy to call out Doug Ford if the Province continues to drag their feet at the table.
- * Watson reiterated a request to help the businesses and workers who are affected by the lock down. Maybe make the criteria to existing lockdown support more flexible to accommodate that group of people.

PM: Hello Jim!

Watson: Hi PM, how are you?

PM: I'm doing ok, more importantly how are you doing?

Watson: A challenge for everyone. Still a pretty unstable situation. Nasty people out there that just don't represent Canada. Reminds me of the republican party down south. Can't reason with them, so vulgar, and hateful, attacking people, ripping masks off, honking their horns. It's not over yet, and I appreciate that I had a really good conversation with Marco and Bill. We have a table with the PT this afternoon at 4:30, and hopefully more resources from you on RCMP. Ford is just staying away from this, but I want to bring him into the tent.

PM: Have they (province) indicated they will be there at 4:30?

Watson: It's been set up by Bill's office. Sylvia Jones is the name on it. She has been disingenuous saying there are 1400 opp, but that's not true. I spoke to Ford yesterday, and he said anything you want, so I'm going to hold his words to it.

So PM, we are fighting a losing battle, it's like whack a mole. We just don't have enough police to stop them. The 1800 officers I requested are divided into 3 jurisdictions, 600 RCMP, 600 opp, 600 other municipal forces. Was speaking with the mayors of the big city caucus. They indicated willingness to help. We need to get these boots on the ground sooner than later. Sometimes I find it in the bureaucracy, not the sense of urgency. Wondering what you can do to help us?

PM: That is entirely right and quite frankly, I know we are looking very carefully at what we can do more, Brenda Lucki is looking at that. One of the challenges is that it goes in steps. The first step is to go to the OPP, then RCMP. It's difficult for us to say what we need to do directly until we have a better idea of what the province is doing. That's why this table is so important. But we are there to give more support as needed.

But on the Ottawa policing side, you have seen, as I have, some concerns on how things were handled from the beginning, how is your relationship with the police chief and how are you guys working together? There are moments where you are saying one thing and he is saying another, is there anywhere we can help around that?

Watson: One thing was when he said it's not a police solution, but it is a police solution, I think he is just a bit frustrated everything is coming down on him. But that doesn't make sense, this is a police matter. I have been trying my very best to back him up every day, as you know PM now is not the time to change courses, we have to do our best to support him.

I'm going to ask after this phone call whether the federal government will live up to its commitment, we need boots on the ground very shortly. It's not dying down, it took over Metcalfe St and blocked all of it.

PM: Listen, yes, you can say yes the federal government will be there with more resource, but again, thing that frustrates me, and everyone is conflated [inaudible]... but Doug Ford has been hiding from his responsibility on it for political reasons as you highlighted, and important that we don't let them get away from that, and we intend to support you on that.

Watson: If they keep dragging their feet, I'm happy to call them out on it. It'd be nice if we have something firmed up with the federal government to shame them. Ford didn't even make an effort to come and see what's going on.

The other challenge now is that the chief seems to think that of the 300 federal officers that the federal government keeps saying, only half are on the frontline, the others are really allocated to Rideau Cottage and Rideau Hall. I don't want you caught in the situation if someone digs..

PM: Ok, listen obviously there are all sorts of different needs, but I will pass along all the concerns.

Watson: one more need, and will push Province on this. Businesses and employees are suffering. I mentioned to Mona, anything we can do to help these individuals, some kind of compensation to those small businesses. Technically we are not in lock down, so they don't qualify.

PM: That makes sense, and I will pass along and see how we can make the rules

Watson: What language are you comfortable with me saying on the federal ask so I don't put you in a jam.

PM: I don't have numbers to give you now, that has to be worked through with the appropriate folks, but I can assure you that our intention is to be there with you to resolve it with the appropriate resources.

Watson: If this can get down to your Minister that would be good, as you know this is becoming a pan-Canadian issue with Windsor too. Our challenge right now is the toll trucks availability.

PM: I know that some toll truck drivers also do not want to be available right now. We need to be able to keep toll truck drivers safe while they are doing their job.

Watson: I appreciate that I can only imagine what you are going through in the last couple of days. How are you feeling? **Personal Info.**

PM: **Personal Info.** I'm feeling fine.

Watson: Thank you very much and I really appreciate the call.

PM: thank you and all your coordination with Yasir, Mona and Jenna.

Watson: You got a great caucus from Ottawa.

PM: Excellent, glad to hear.

Watson: Take care.

Alan Ning

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